



Virginia Healthcare Workforce Briefs

Indicators from the Bureau of Labor Statistics'
Current Employment Statistics Survey
Series 1: State & National Employment

Series 1, Issue 58

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Inside this Brief:

Virginia HC&SA Employment	2
Virginia Employment	2
National Employment	3
State Employment Growth	3
About the Data	4

Data in the report are seasonally adjusted. Self-employed persons, including health professionals in private practice, are not included.

Highlights

- According to preliminary estimates, Virginia's Health Care & Social Assistance (HC&SA) sector lost jobs for the third consecutive month as employment fell by 600 in December. During Q4 2016, 2,500 jobs were lost in Virginia's HC&SA sector, which represents a three-month annualized employment growth rate of -2.3%. However, this sector still created 5,200 new jobs in 2016.
- Despite the job losses in Virginia's HC&SA sector, the state's total nonfarm payroll experienced its strongest one-month employment gain since February with the addition of 14,100 new jobs in December. In 2016, Virginia's total nonfarm payroll increased by 49,600 jobs, which represents a 12-month employment growth rate of 1.3%.
- While Virginia's HC&SA sector struggled in December, the national HC&SA sector enjoyed its largest one-month employment gain in more than one year after creating 63,300 new jobs during the month. In addition, the national HC&SA sector created 514,100 new jobs across the country in 2016.
- National total nonfarm payroll increased by 156,000 in December, which represents a one-month employment growth rate of 1.3%. Throughout 2016, national total nonfarm payroll grew by 2.16 million jobs.

Data in Brief

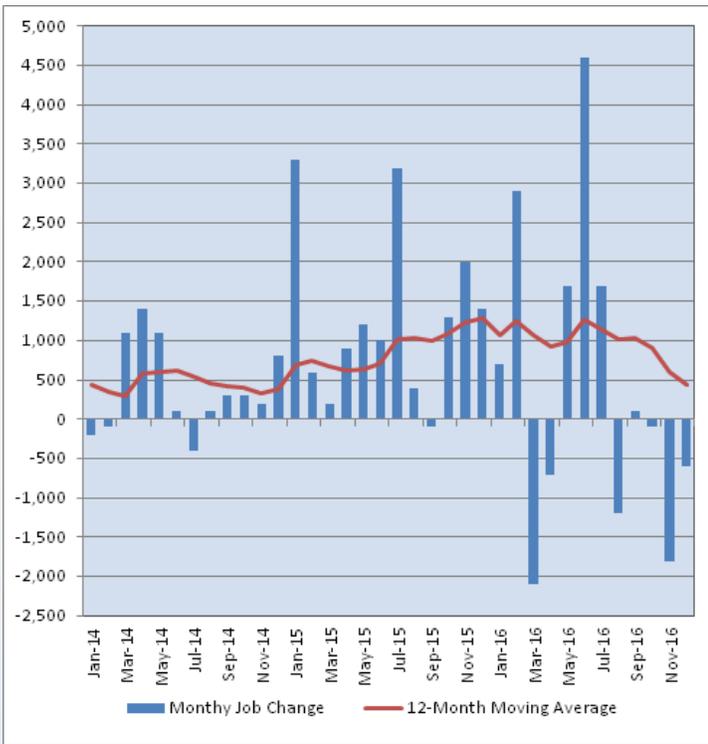
Seasonally Adjusted*	Employment, in Thousands				Growth Rate, Annualized		
	Dec. 2015	Sept. 2016	Nov. 2016	Dec. 2016	12 Month	3 Month	1 Month
Nonfarm, Total							
Virginia	3,902.1	3,943.8	3,937.6	3,951.7	1.3%	0.8%	4.4%
National	143,146.0	144,808.0	145,147.0	145,303.0	1.5%	1.4%	1.3%
Health Care & Social Assistance							
Virginia	426.1	433.8	431.9	431.3	1.2%	-2.3%	-1.7%
National	18,876.0	19,249.3	19,326.8	19,390.1	2.7%	3.0%	4.0%
All Other Nonfarm							
Virginia	3,476.0	3,510.0	3,505.7	3,520.4	1.3%	1.2%	5.1%
National	124,270.0	125,558.7	125,820.2	125,912.9	1.3%	1.1%	0.9%

Preliminary estimates are italicized

*Seasonally adjusted data are adjusted by the Bureau of Labor Statistics to account for weather, holidays and other seasonal changes. Economists use seasonally adjusted data to reveal underlying trends over time. This series uses seasonally adjusted data exclusively. When comparing data in this series to other HWDC series, or publications from other sources, it is important to note whether the data reported have been seasonally adjusted.

Virginia HC&SA Employment

Figure 1: Monthly Change in Employment in Virginia’s Health Care & Social Assistance Sector, Seasonally Adjusted.



According to the preliminary data released on Tuesday, January 24, 2017 by the U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, Virginia’s HC&SA sector experienced a decline in employment for the third consecutive month. In December, this subsector shed 600 jobs, which represents a one-month annualized employment growth rate of -1.7% . In addition, during Q4 2016, HC&SA employment in the state fell by 2,500, which represents an even weaker three-month annualized growth rate of -2.3% .

Employment growth in Virginia’s HC&SA sector weakened considerably during the second half of 2016. After creating 7,100 new jobs during the first six months of the year, the state’s HCS&A sector lost 1,900 jobs in the following six months. Thus, Virginia’s HC&SA sector created a total of 5,200 in 2016. In 2015, this sector created 15,400 jobs.

This employment weakness can be observed in the decline of the 12-month moving average of the change in HC&SA employment. Over the past 12 months, Virginia has created an average of 433 HC&SA jobs per months, its lowest value in two years.

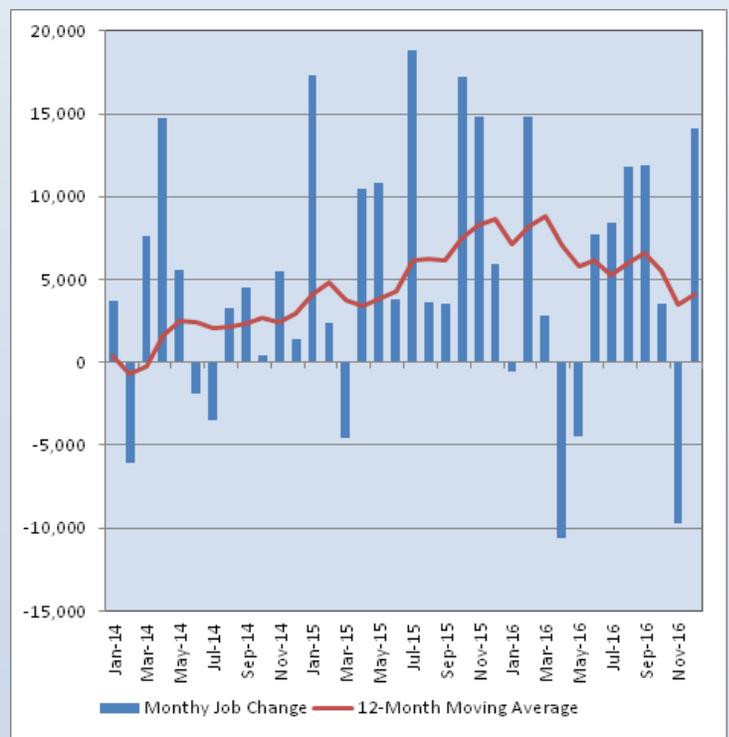
Virginia Employment

According to preliminary estimates, Virginia’s total nonfarm payroll rebounded nicely from its employment losses in November with the creation of 14,100 new jobs in December. This job gain represents a one-month annualized employment growth rate of 4.4% , which is well above the 12-month average of 1.3% . Including December’s job gain, Virginia’s total nonfarm payroll has now increased in six of the past seven months.

Unlike Virginia’s HC&SA sector, most of the growth in the state’s total nonfarm payroll took place during the second half of the year. During the first half of 2016, Virginia’s total nonfarm payroll increased by only 9,600, but 40,000 new jobs were created throughout the state during the second half of 2016. Despite this stronger employment growth in recent months, however, Virginia’s employment picture deteriorated in 2016 relative to the previous year. In 2015, Virginia’s total nonfarm payroll grew by 104,000.

Although the 12-month moving average of the change in Virginia’s total nonfarm payroll increased to 4,133 in December, the long-term trend suggests continued weakness.

Figure 2: Monthly Change in Employment in Virginia’s Total Non-farm Payroll, Seasonally Adjusted.

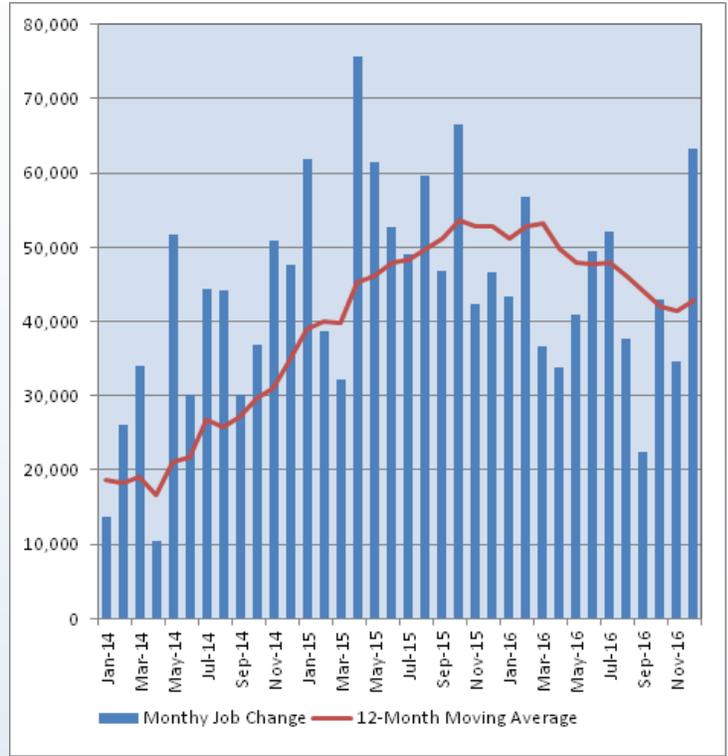


National Employment

While employment in Virginia's HC&SA sector continued to weaken in December, the situation with respect to the national HC&SA sector improved considerably during the month. The national HC&SA sector created 63,300 new jobs in December. Not only does this represent a one-month employment growth rate of 4.0%, but it also represents its largest one-month job gain since October 2015. In 2016, the national HC&SA sector created a total of 514,100 new jobs, which represents a 12-month employment growth rate of 2.7%. Despite this strong growth, however, it also constitutes a 19% annual decline relative to the 633,800 HC&SA jobs that were created throughout the country in 2015.

Meanwhile, national total nonfarm payroll increased by 156,000 in December, which represents a one-month annualized employment growth rate of 1.3%. In 2016, the nation's total nonfarm payroll grew by 2.16 million, which represents a 12-month growth rate of 1.5%. However, national total nonfarm payroll increased by 2.74 million in 2015 and by 3.02 million in 2014. In fact, this year's total employment gain was the weakest since 2012 when 2.15 million new jobs were created across the country.

Figure 3: Monthly Change in Employment in National Health Care & Social Assistance Sector, Seasonally Adjusted



State Employment Growth

The weak employment growth in Virginia's HC&SA sector can be easily observed in the decline in the state's six-month HC&SA employment growth rate moving average. For most of 2016, this moving average tended to stay between 2% and 4%, which represents relatively strong employment growth. However, the lower bound of this range has been broken over the past two months. In fact, this moving average has fallen all the way from 3.35% in October to -0.83% in December, reaching lows not observed in more than a decade. At the same time, the six-month moving average of the growth rate in Virginia's total nonfarm payroll continued to improve in December, reaching a nine-month high of 2.46% during the month.

Figure 4: Six-Month Moving Average, Employment Growth, Seasonally Adjusted



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About the Data

Data in this report are from the US Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics' Current Employment Statistics program. The CES program surveys about 143,000 businesses and government agencies monthly. Unless otherwise noted, this series uses seasonally-adjusted data that removes seasonal variations related to weather, holidays, weekends, seasons and other predictable variations. This allows us to better examine underlying trends in the labor market. Data from recent months are preliminary and subject to revision in future releases from the CES. Revisions will be reported in future editions of this series. Unless otherwise noted, the CES data presented in this series:

Includes:

- ◆ Data on employed individuals drawing a paycheck (payroll employees).
- ◆ All employees, regardless of role, occupation or hours worked.
- ◆ HC&SA employees in the private sector only.
- ◆ Persons employed by health professionals in private practice.
- ◆ Both government and private sector workers in nonfarm employment data.

Does not include:

- ◆ Self-employed workers or volunteers, including health professionals in private practice.
- ◆ HC&SA employees in the public sector. (These are counted as government workers in monthly reports).
- ◆ Information on hours worked or the quality of employment.
- ◆ Government workers in HC&SA level data. (Government workers, regardless of occupation and role, are classified as public sector employees).

The Department of Health Professions Healthcare Workforce Data Center works to improve the data collection and measurement of Virginia's healthcare workforce through regular assessment of workforce supply and demand issues among the 80 professions and 350,000 practitioners licensed in Virginia by DHP.

The HWDC collects data on Virginia's licensed health professionals through surveys completed during the online license renewal and application process. Survey results and data may be accessed on our website: www.dhp.virginia.gov/hwdc/.

The HWDC also provides a series of Virginia Healthcare Workforce Briefs based on data collected by the US Department of Labor's Bureau of Labor Statistics and the US Department of Commerce' Bureau of Economic Analysis.

Virginia Healthcare Workforce Briefs:

Series 1: State & National Employment (Monthly)

Series 2: Virginia Regional Employment (Monthly)

Series 3: Income & Compensation (Quarterly)